

Monday 6th December to Friday 10th December 2021



Headteachers' Blog

Behaviour and Attitudes Review

On Wednesday of last week Jeremy Rowe, CEO, and Helen Wilson, Director of Secondary's, came into school to conduct a review of Behaviour and Attitudes, one of the key Ofsted criteria. The review involved numerous meetings with staff, discussions with students, visits to classrooms and observations during social time. I am delighted to report that the outcome of the review was very positive. To summarise, it was noted that whilst a small proportion of students exhibited behaviours that were challenging, there were clear procedures that staff followed to ensure that the learning of others was not disrupted. The work of the new student leadership team was highly commended, with pointers given to how student voice could be harnessed to better effect. Students feel safe and the atmosphere in the school is welcoming and focussed.

We were very clear in our own view – we are pleased that our systems are working and that many visitors to our school compliment the students' behaviour and civility, but we still believe there is room for us to improve, and that is what we work on every day.

On the topic of student voice...

I am delighted to report that Courtney Cunningham in Year 10 has made it through to the next round of the Suffolk Youth Parliament. I am very proud to see that Courtney has the confidence to push herself forward to do what she can to have her voice heard. Good luck Courtney on the next stage of the process.

Mud

I am extremely sorry about the state of students' footwear as they leave the school each day. I am preparing bids for new hardstanding areas as I cannot believe that the project that built the school think it's acceptable to literally remove hard standing areas. There is no quick fix unfortunately, as it is a very costly process, but I want parents to know that I am trying to do something about this most ridiculous of situations.

Trees

Mrs Deuchars, supported by Ruby Elwood and Shona Mills (Headteacher Ambassadors – Environment) and a group of 20 students planted over 50 trees at the Museum of East Anglian Life last week as part of a Town Council community tree planting event. Great work folks.

Whilst we are on about trees, our thanks to Tesco and to Asda for donating Christmas trees for our reception area and main hall – they add that something special!



Year 11 Tripod Evenings - dates for your diaries

The Year 11 Tripod Evening will be taking place in January. This is of course a very important Tripod Evening as it follows the PEs. In the past parents have said that they find it difficult to get Science appointments and so the Tripod Evening will be split into 3 separate evenings:

- 11.01.22 - Science Tripod Evening 1
- 13.01.22 - All other subjects Tripod Evening
- 18.01.22 - Science Tripod Evening 2

The meetings will once again be remote, and the booking system will open at 4pm on Monday the 4th of January. You will also receive more detailed information about the evening on that day.

GCSE Success Evening - date for your diary

We are aiming to hold a GCSE Success Evening, here at the school on the 20 January 2022, for all parents and carers of Year 11 students.

The aims of this evening will be centred around how you can best support your child in the run up to exams. It will contain information about the time ahead, the latest information from the government about the exams as well as tips and tricks to show you how you can help your children to get ready for their exams. This will range from where to find resources on exam board websites, to setting home routines and on to writing revision schedules. We will also discuss mental health and how to support the well-being of young people.

By the end of the evening, parents and carers should feel much more confident in terms of how they can help their children as they approach their GCSE exams.

More information about this will be provided after the Christmas holidays.

Covid Update

- Mrs Millerchip will be handing out Home Test Kits in the Atrium on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th December for students to use over the Christmas Break
- All students will be tested once in accordance with Government guidelines on returning to school in January 2022

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will now be virtual. Students will be rehearsing in school on the 8th and 9th of December. Then with the excellent support from media students based at Abbeygate 6th Form College, it will be recorded and released for your viewing on the 15th of December.

Christmas Hamper Competition- Our Tenth Year!

Your son/daughter's form group will be involved in a Christmas hamper competition during the month of December. Every tutor group has been tasked with making and filling a hamper which will be donated to the Stowmarket Food Bank once completed. Our school Christmas hamper project is now into its tenth year.

Your generous gifts of food and presents would be greatly appreciated, at a time in which more vulnerable people are particularly in need. Items should be non-perishable please and could include something from the list below. The food bank will come in to school on the last day of term and judge the competition, they will then take the hampers and the contents to the foodbank.



Please choose from our shopping list & donate to the foodbank ~ thanks for your support.

Christmas cakes / Iced fruit bars

Tins of salmon

Tin/carton of custard

Christmas puddings

Boxes of chocolates

Packets of crisps, Twiglets, cheese savouries, etc

Packets of nuts, Pringles

Biscuits for cheese

Christmas chocolate logs

Cartons of fruit juice

Instant hot chocolate

Variety packs of cereals

Tinned ham



Stowmarket Foodbank, Hillside Community Centre,

Stowmarket, IP14 2BD - 01449 774000

Charity number - 1074780

Dates for your Calendar

Monday 13th December – Flu Immunisations

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 15th December – Year 7 Cinema Trip – 7S, 7T and 7O

Thursday 16th December Year 7 Cinema Trip - 7W, 7H, 7I and 7G

Thursday 16th December – Christmas Lunch

Friday 17th December – Christmas Hamper Competition

Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs T Goodman	t.goodman@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Mr S Peckford	s.peckford@stowhigh.com
Assistant HOY 8 & 9	Mrs T Shaw	t.shaw@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 9	Mr M Blewitt	m.blewitt@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 10	Mrs L Wellham	l.wellham@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 11	Mrs R Dolby	r.dolby@stowhigh.com
Finance		finance@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com



To report a student absence please call 01449 613541 and select option: 1